

Black Jack



SCOUTS OUT! B, 4-9'S STORY

Battery A, 3-82's MOUT Experience

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Editor's Notes

This is the inaugural issue of the Black Jack Brigade's new publication *Living The Legend*.

Living The Legend is produced by the staff of the Black Jack Public Affairs Office. In it we will examine the units and Soldiers that the 2nd Brigade Combat Team comprises.

In this issue, we focus on the recently completed field-training exercise, the "Black Jack Charge." Over the course of the last month, our brigade has been conducting company lanes training in preparation for our upcoming rotation to the National Training Center and probable deployment to Iraq.

As we continue to train, we will continue to tell the Black Jack story.



Spc. Robert Yde
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I'd like to extend a special "thanks" to the 7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment here on Fort Hood, whose members helped tell our Brigade's story during the Black Jack Charge.

Our staff would also like to encourage story ideas and submissions from any Black Jack Soldier. *Living The Legend* is your magazine; please let us know what you would like to see in the future.

We plan on printing approximately 500 copies per issue every month; however, we will also place this publication on the web so your family and friends will have access.

This publication will be the conduit for the commander's information throughout any future deployment wherever it might take us.

RJY

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COVER



ON THE COVER:
1ST LT WILLIAMS
DURING
B, 4-9'S COMPANY
LANES

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:
STAFF SGT. KAP KIM

The Roundtable

Col. Bryan Roberts
Commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team,
1st Cavalry Division

Black Jack Charge was the first opportunity to bring our company-level commanders together and test their formations in the field.

This gives them a chance to apply current lessons learned from previous Operation Iraqi Freedom rotations and use them in our training environment.

Black Jack Charge consisted of two types of lanes training: a Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain lane and a medical civil action program lane. The MOUT, or urban lane, consisted of a cordon and search. The company commander's job was to secure the village and find a specific individual, whether he was a suspected insurgent, sheik or imam who the company commander needed to coordinate with and determine any special projects required for the village.

The MEDCAP lane engaged the company commander with a scenario to talk to the local sheik and provide his village with medical assistance, bringing about good will. If done correctly, the sheik may provide vital information about possible insurgents in the surrounding area of responsibility.

Each lane had a number of civilians playing Iraqi citizens adding much to the realism our Soldiers will see in Iraq. These lanes are in essence a conglomeration of lessons learned from OIF. It is vital to give our Soldiers as realistic as possible the type of training they will see in our eventual



Black Jack 6

deployment to OIF 06-08.

The Black Jack charges are a mantra I believe every Black Jack Soldier should live by. I want every Black Jack Soldier to be positive, polite, professional, prepared to help and prepared to kill. This is the mindset we need to be in before our deployment.

Our Soldiers are doing a great job, and they will never stop training hard. There is a short road ahead of us before we deploy. Soldiers and families prepare yourselves now. September will be too late.

Black Jack Six — Out.

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2nd Brigade Combat Team

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Living THE LEGEND Black Jack

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Winning The Hearts & Minds

4-9 Scouts Focus on Community Relations

Story by Spc. Robert Yde
2nd BCT, 1st CAV DIV PAO

The job of establishing good community relations with the Iraqi citizens has been one of the Army's most important missions. One way this is accomplished is by providing assistance to people and towns in need, to include supplies, reestablishing utility services, and especially medical care.

However, while the intentions may be good, the mission can be complicated by hostilities and a lack of trust. In such a stressful environment effective improvisation and communication are keys to success.

Soldiers from Troop B., 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division recently focused their training on this type of scenario.

"The intent of the operation was to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi



photo by Staff Sgt. Kap Kim

A Soldier speaks with the local Imam to help with the MEDCAP.

people," 1st Sgt. Joseph T. McFarlane, the Troop B's first sergeant explained.

"We want to provide for them the items that they don't have," McFarlane added.

The mission was to enter town, make contact with the sheik, and establish a medical civil action programs site.

After the troop commander, Capt. Carl Whitman obtained permission from the sheik, the medics were able to establish the MEDCAP.

"Our mission is to treat and care for patients to the best of our capabilities," Pfc. Travis Conques, a combat medic said.

Their capabilities were put to the test, as the situation quickly became a triage. The medics encountered broken appendages, burns and even a pregnancy, as patient after patient was helped to the MEDCAP site.

While the medics attended to the ailing, other Soldiers provided security throughout the city.

"First we set up concertina wire for local security, clear the buildings, and then keep pulling guard so no leaves the AO (area of operations)," Marcel Schuerstedt, a cavalry scout said.

While most of the crowd was friendly, the Soldiers still had to deal with several hostile individuals throughout the village.

"One of the civilians was reaching toward our weapons," Pvt. Christopher Jones, a cavalry scout said.

One of the greatest challenges is to not react aggressively, Jones explained.

Overcoming that challenge is exactly what McFarlane wants his Soldiers to take from the training.

"It takes a lot of discipline," MaFarlane said, "Going into a situation like this you must control your aggression."

However, McFarlane added, that if the situation mandates, his Soldiers, "must be ready" to elevate their position at any time.



photo by Spc. Robert Yde

A Soldier takes a detainee to an inspection site.

REENLIST

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Contact your local Retention Office

Scouts Out!

Troop B, 4-9 Cav

The mission for Troop B, 4-9 Feb. 28 during the Black Jack Charge was to enter an Iraqi village, make contact with the local shiek and set up a MEDCAP. Clockwise From Top: Capt. Carl Whitman meets with the local shiek. A Soldier scans the crowd. A Soldier treats an injured Iraqi woman. A suspected insurgent is searched.



photo by Spc. Robert Yde



photo by Spc. Robert Yde



photo by Staff Sgt. Kap Kim



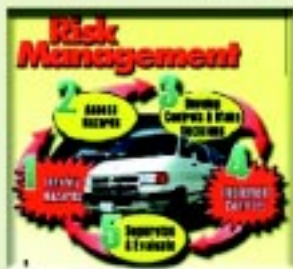
photo by Staff Sgt. Kap Kim



FIRST TEAM POWER THOUGHT

"I CAN SAVE MY OWN LIFE"

WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?



I am responsible for my own safety
both on and off duty,
on and off post

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT ?

Because I AM important
My family and friends love me
My unit needs me
My nation is depending on me



Risk Factors

Fatigue

Aggressive Driving

- Trying to drive too far without rest - Speeding and driving too fast for the conditions

Seat Belts - IT'S THE LAW

Drugs and Alcohol - State law and UCMJ

Soldier and Leader Indiscipline - Not enforcing published laws/regulations/guidance/standards

BLACK JACK



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

If you have any interesting story ideas, please contact your 2nd BCT
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or stop by our office located in the 2nd Brigade Annex Building on
72nd and Battalion Ave.



MOUT Lane Training

Military Operations in Urbanized Terrain

Story and photo by *Spc. L.B. Edgar,*
7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The freedom of Al Jabar's citizens hangs in the balance of a hard-fought battle between insurgents and the Black Knights of Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

As realistic as this scenario seems, it is not a battle, but a pre-deployment training exercise on Fort Hood's Military Operations in Urbanized Terrain mock city, Al Jabar.

Hunting down insurgents is the goal of the training, said Capt. Matt Stuckey, Black Knights.

"The training objective is to conduct a cordon and search. [In this scenario] we are looking to detain or kill insurgents [in this city]," Stuckey explained. "The mission is very similar to what is going [in Iraq] right now. It's excellent training for what we're going to be doing if we deploy."

The Black Knights, part of the Black Jack brigade, are going into Al Jabar to hunt three targets: a leader, who is in charge of the village's insurgency, as well as a second cell, which linked up with him and an insurgency trainer. The insurgents have links to Al Qaeda, allies in the area and weapons caches in Al Jabar, Capt. Douglas Johnson, Black Jack Bde. observer/controller said.

The Black Knights hope to liberate the citizens from the insurgency and return sovereignty of the village to its people, Johnson said.

"Our training here is really to improve the conditions of the village by coming in and decreasing the attacks on the civilians, Iraqi Security Forces as well as American forces. This is the first time, in 45 days, we've been in the village. The insurgency has taken over the village," Johnson said.

More than just an Army operation, the Black Knights rely on the local population to aid in the effort, Johnson said.

"Once the American forces flush these targets out, then they can start establishing control within the city. The local leaders in the area have been cooperative and gave intelligence to the American forces leading them to these targets," he said.

Another ally in the battle is the local Iraqi Security Force.

"The insurgents are known to infiltrate the Iraqi Security Forces, but at this time, since the Iraqi Security Forces have come back into the area, we've had total cooperation. They will allow the use of their security forces to keep the streets clean of civilians while the attack is going on," Johnson said.

As power transfers from American forces to the ISF, a stronger working relationship will develop.

"We're utilizing them as we would in theater," Stuckey said. "It's very important that we train on that stuff before we deploy because that's a very important part of our deployment, especially in this phase of the conflict. We need to be transitioning power, working with the local police force, the local Iraqi forces."

The training also emphasizes interaction with the significant people who live, work and occupy the affected area of operations to include local government officials and local leaders, both religious and secular. Improving relationships with the local security forces is also stressed, Johnson said.

The Soldiers train to work with the local population to stabilize the situation and assist the community's leadership in improving its critical infrastructure and thereby the overall betterment of the civilian population, Johnson said.

The strategy aims to strengthen the community's infra-

*~ "It's excellent training for
what we're going to be doing if
we deploy." ~*

Capt. Matt Stuckey
Co. A, 1-8 Cavalry

structure, aid the citizenry in taking back their community from the insurgency, and thereby decrease attacks on civilians and Multi-national Forces, Johnson said.

A realistic training environment ensures a successful mission, said Sgt. 1st Class Muhammad Glass, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 2nd Platoon, Co. A, 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div.

The logic behind the training is sound.

"I think when you get experience on the battlefield, you need to bring that experience back to the training so that new Soldiers coming into the Army can get that realistic training," Glass said. The training simulates realistic tactical operations by incorporating all enemy battlefield systems as well as improved tactics, techniques and procedures. Improved TTPs include improvised explosive devices, vehicle borne IEDs (VBIEDs), mortar attacks and suicide bombers, Johnson said.

"When they come into the city they are going to be encountering several of the enemies' current TTPs with improved IEDs, mortar attacks, vehicle borne IEDs; as well as suicide attacks," Johnson said.

According to Glass, prior to his first deployment the IED training focused on encounters on the highways. Now that the Army is gaining feedback from Soldiers returning, lessons learned on the battlefield prepare Soldiers for IEDs in neighborhoods as well, he said.

The Black Knights have to be ready for just about anything to happen on the battlefield.

"The civilian population is good at this time. They are cooperating, other than some of the insurgents, who are blending in with the population. VBIEDs are known in this area to be made by some of the in-

surgents. Also IEDs that are laid under the pavement can be a big problem when the American forces come in. Mortar attacks usually happen daily on the American forces operation base and IED attacks happen on major routes also," Johnson said.

Clearing buildings in Al Jabar is one way the Black Knights are training to think on their feet.



"When you actually rehearse [a mission] you just use that [plan] as a guideline or an outline for what actually goes on. You can't train for everything. You can't expect everything to happen. But if you train the basics and fundamentals, it becomes instinctive," Glass said. "It sort of gives them the training to react: train to fight the fight and not the plan."

The training is truly a team effort.

"Leaders are planning, NCOs are enforcing the standards and Soldiers are professionally executing the mission," Johnson said. "With great leadership, strong NCOs and motivated and trained Soldiers success is the result."

The team-oriented approach worked well for the Black Knights in Al Jabar.

"They were very successful with tactical questioning of targets, which resulted in the capture of insurgents," Johnson said.

"There was minimal collateral damage to the community and excellent coordination was made of the ISF resulting in a working relationship."

The Black Knights hope their accomplishment in Al Jabar is mimicked on future battlefields.

"We're doing excellent training for the missions we will most likely be doing when we deploy," Stuckey said. "The Soldiers are doing an excellent job, putting out a lot of effort and getting a lot out of the training."

The reward for the Black Knights' trouble is a safe return from future deployments.

"The bottom line to this training is to ensure that we are prepared for future missions, to improve the stabilization of our area of operations and to bring every Soldier home," Johnson said.

Understanding Cultural Differences

*Story and photo by Pfc. William Hatton
7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Living in a foreign land with a people living a completely different lifestyle, how do Soldiers in Iraq deal with the differences? With so many little cultural taboos, how do Soldiers find the way to avoid disrespect and tension?

As the conflict in Iraq continues, Soldiers are not only having to fight enemies, but learn that as they are in Iraq they are also visitors and guest to the people there, said Col. Bryan Roberts, 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"Try to think of it as if it were your own neighborhood," Roberts said. "In the smaller towns, the people there know their neighbors, and when a strange car comes in, or when strangers come walking down the street, they know that those people aren't regulars. When Soldiers continue to build better relationships with the locals, the Iraqi people can in turn help our cause in defeating the enemy," he added.

"When better relationships are established, the people will feel better at ease to come to the Soldiers for help, but if Soldiers are rude and demanding then they tend not to be so friendly," Roberts said.

"While I was in Iraq it seemed that most people were welcoming of our presence," said Spc. Owen Simmons, with Company A, 1-5 Cavalry, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. "Unfortunately the news isn't really portraying the positive things we're doing in Iraq like building schools and hospitals for the people there," he added.

"The thing to understand is that their culture is not like ours. It's important that we know their culture. We

are trying to train the Soldiers to actually learn the basic greetings and regular expressions," Roberts said.

"First off Soldiers need to learn to break the ice," said a cultural advisor for the Army. The woman, an Iraqi national, did not disclose her name for safety and security reasons.

"One way for Soldiers to break the ice is to learn more about soccer. Most Iraqis, young and old, love soccer. So if Soldiers were to learn about the Iraqi teams, and show interest with the people, it would help Soldiers to relate with the people there," the Iraqi national said.

"Another way to help Soldiers is to learn to respect their different kinds of food. The people put a lot of heart and effort into their food, and the food isn't cheap. It's especially important to be respectful if someone cooks for you because some people don't even have electricity and running water," she added.

"A lot of the youth in Iraq have learned English and know a lot about American entertainment," the Iraqi national said. If a Soldier was to talk to them about American entertainment, they would

love to hear about it," she added.

"One thing to take very serious is the religion in Iraq," said the Iraqi national. "Don't be sarcastic or funny during their time of prayer. It's just their custom," she added.

As Soldiers continue to learn the Iraqi customs, train for the best situations, and establish good relationships, our mission will progress, said Roberts.



Soldiers learned how to interact with Iraqis through the familiarization with local customs.

WHEATIES

& General
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This graphic was made by Staff Sgt. Kap Kim, 2nd BCT 1st Cav Div. This graphic in no way is an endorsement of the 2 BCT or the U.S. Army.



WHEATIES

The Breakfast

Cpl. Andrew Halsing
E, 1-5 Cav

Better beat
your Feeties!



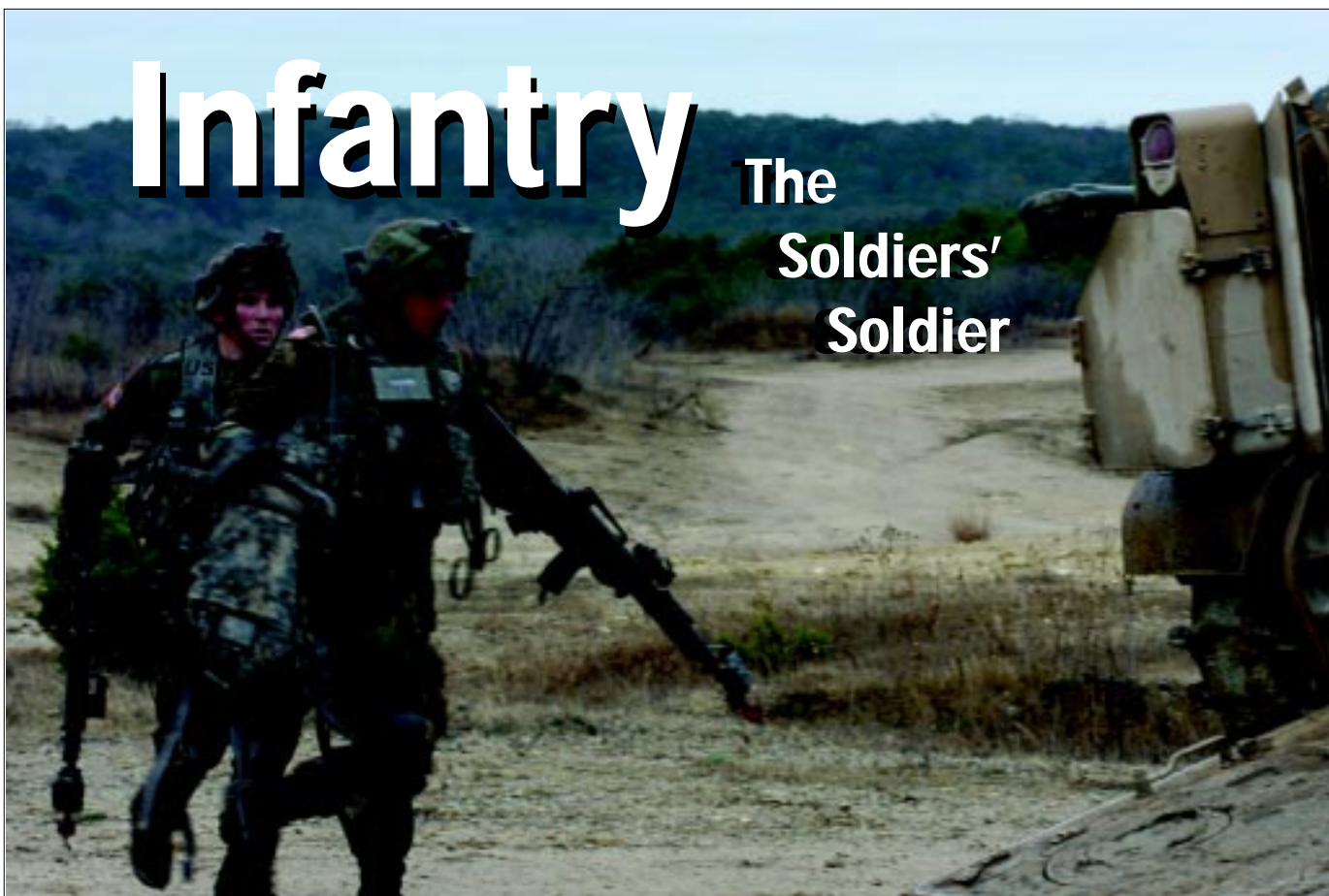
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Infantry

The Soldiers' Soldier



**Story and photos by Sgt. Joy Drumheller
7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

They're the guys you see in recruiting videos. They're low crawling through the mud and hiding amongst the trees. They're on the front lines defending freedom and liberty worldwide. They're infantrymen, the Soldiers' Soldier, the true backbone of the U.S. Army.

"This [the infantry] is what they make movies about; this is what they write books about," said Pvt. Tipton Bray, a Soldier with Company B, 1-5 Cavalry, 2nd "Black Jack" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Bray, whose grandfather served with the infantry in World War II, entered his recruiter's office wanting to become an infantryman, despite the fact that it offers no real career opportunities in the civilian world.

"The infantryman does it to serve his country; he doesn't expect anything in return. He just wants to give,"

Bray explained.

Many of Bray's fellow infantrymen echoed the concept of infantry being the only way to go. "The blue cord, the EIB (Expert Infantry Badge), the CIB (Combat Infantry Badge) are important to me," explained Spc. Jaime Flanagan, Company B, 1-5 Cavalry. "It shows what I've done. I chose infantry because I felt like I'd be tested more physically and mentally. It's one of the hardest jobs in the Army."

"I couldn't do anything but infantry," Flanagan continued.

"I couldn't be field artillery and hit things from a distance. I couldn't be finance and sit in the office. None of us could imagine doing anything else."

So where does all this pride come from? According to these infantrymen, it's the fact that they're doing the one job in the Army that everyone else is employed to support.

"We're at the top of the food chain," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Brosch, acting platoon leader, 3rd Platoon (Punishers), Company B, 1-5 Cav.

"Not to take anything away from other MOSs at all, they're all needed, but to me, being out in the middle of everything ... you see all aspects of battle first hand," Flanagan said.

"Everything supports the infantry, but without them we can't move," said 1st Sgt. Sammie C. Mays III, first sergeant, Company B, 1-5 Cavalry. "But, the infantry's the main ingredient."

Mays also explained that the infantryman can be cross trained to do any other Soldiers' job, but not every Soldier can be infantry.

The infantry can also lay claim to something that very few other jobs can, they get to do Soldier stuff, all day, every day. "I joined the Army to play Army, not to sit behind a computer," said Cpl. Stephen Greene, Co.B, 1-5 Cavalry.

Infantrymen train on every weapons system the Army offers. They learn to drive Bradleys, clear buildings and evade enemy fire. They also learn the importance of good leadership and teamwork.

Flanagan, who left the Army in 2000 and returned in 2005, said camaraderie is what brought him back to the infantry. "When I got out, there was a huge hole and coming back here is where I'm happy."

"If I wasn't here I wouldn't be out, cold and wet and hurting and be able to look at the guy next to me and know he's feeling the same thing," Flanagan explained. "It brings everyone together because everybody's sucking just as bad as the next guy."

Those feelings of closeness transcend rank. Infantry Soldiers are groomed as leaders from the time they enter the Army, Mays explained. NCOs start out as team leaders and are expected to lead by example, he continued. The job of a team leader, Mays said, is to look after the welfare of three or four other men and train them to be leaders.

Infantry noncommissioned officers are right beside their Soldiers through good and bad, Flanagan said. "If you're crawling through the mud, in the rain, snow head; your sergeant will be right out there with you."

But that doesn't mean those NCOs sacrifice any of their respect to forge the bond. "NCOs demand discipline, due to the fact that our job is very complex," Brosch said. "Our orders are very clear and must be adhered to."

Those complexities and intricacies in their job also contribute to the makings of good leaders. The infantryman has to understand weapons, Bradleys, missions and dismounts and combine them all into a collective task, explained Mays, who's been in the infantry for almost 22 years.

"You experience a lot under stress, a lot of things coming at you that you have to handle at once," Mays said.

Despite their role at the head of the spear, infantrymen have a lot of stigma to deal with from the rest of the Army. Stupidity and conceit were listed high on the list of misconceptions about the infantry. "A lot of people have the misconception that infantry guys are dumb," Flanagan said. "They should come spend one week with us out in the field and say that again."

"We have a lot of very educated Soldiers and leaders and they chose to be infantry," Mays added.

However, Brosch said that he kind of likes the perception they get from other people. Brosch explained that when infantrymen roll into the dining facility after a long mission, looking exhausted and hostile, that's what sets the infantry apart from everyone else. They're out doing what no one else wants to do and enjoying it, he said.

"This is the best job in the Army," Brosch said.



Just another day of living in the mud.

Black Jack Family Time

Families Invited to View Training

*Story and photos by Spc. Alexis Harrison
2nd BCT, 1st CAV DIV PAO*

Long days in the field make for lonely nights, and being away from your family can be one of the hardest things a Soldier must endure. For one battalion of lucky Soldiers, its families were allowed to come to the field to see what really goes on during the “high speed” training the Soldiers are always talking about.

Family members of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment got to watch an iteration of Military Oriented Urban Terrain training Feb. 26, from high above the simulated battlefield.

“It was a wonderful experience to come out and see the guys perform,” said Jennifer Wilbraham, wife of Capt. Andrew Wilbraham, battalion logistics officer. “It takes some of the mystery out of what really goes on in the field.”

The 1-5 “Black Knights” had been in the field for weeks living in a combat environment. 1-5 had been training scenarios like the one they faced at the Hargrove MOUT site numerous times. With their families watching, the “Black Knights” were motivated to achieve an even higher level of performance during their run through the lane.

“The Soldiers seem to be more into what they’re doing,” said Capt. Wilbraham. “It’s a huge boost of moral for the guys, and they all put forth an extra effort.”

Family support can help Soldiers get through the toughest times. Not only are wives and children encouraged to support, but moms, dads, uncles, aunts, grandparents and friends are all encouraged to support a Soldier close to them.

“I have the most supportive family in the world,” said Staff Sgt. Brandon Goodman, a master



*Col. Roberts and children
Hargrove MOUT site
Feb. 26*




*Staff Sgt. Brandon
Goodman & Family*

gunner with Company A, 1-5. “I was looking forward to this visit all week, and it kept me motivated.”

Hugs and kisses aren’t the only reason a family goes to the field to see its Soldier. It can also be a learning tool to educate the families about mission intent, operations and what’s being done to keep their Soldiers safer and more likely to come home unscathed.

“This opens up communication to talk about things that families might not have been able to talk about before,” said Capt. Wilbraham. “My wife doesn’t have to sit at home and wonder what’s going on anymore. Families get to understand what we do and how we do it.”

“I definitely think this training will help during the next deployment,” said Wilbraham.

A soldier in camouflage gear, including a helmet and goggles, is shown from the chest up. He has a lemon in his mouth. The background is a dark, gradient blue.

*"I need a rock
or something"*

*Your average cavalry scout can burn up to
8,000 calories a day. That's why soldiers like
Pvt. Christopher Jones rely on his MRE
cheese with jalapeno spread to replenish
those vital calories he's lost. He not only
kneads it, but he also wants it.*

got mre?

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HMMWV



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